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translation accurate and readable. These good qualities we have been accustomed to find in "Maitland's Year Books."

In this volume, Mr. Turner, as we might have expected, makes an especially careful study of the various extant manuscripts. In particular, he compares the manuscripts of the first few years of the reign for the purpose of discovering their mutual relations and the identity or otherwise of their originals. This comparison is carried out in the minutest detail, with patience and authority; and doubtless Mr. Turner's conclusions are well warranted. Future commentators on the early Year Books will not need again to repeat his laborious work.

The principal part of Mr. Turner's introduction is an attempt to establish what he calls the "pamphlet theory" of the origin of the Year Books. He takes up, first, the old question, whether there were, as Plowden and Bacon and Coke say, official reporters who reported the cases now in the Year Books. His chief argument in favor of the old story is that "we can scarcely reject it as worthless" when we find it "accepted by Coke as well as by Bacon," though, as he admits, Coke and Bacon accepted it, a generation later, on Plowden's assertion,—an argument which will not approve itself to most lawyers to-day.

As to the "pamphlet theory" itself, Mr. Turner makes out a fairly strong case for his theory that the reports were issued term by term, then gathered together by years, and finally, after the immediate value of the reports as pictures of living law had passed, were collected and copied by reigns by the few persons who as profound students of law cared to know the doctrines of the past. This theory seems compatible with any of the theories as to the origin of the Year Books which have heretofore been suggested.

We thank Mr. Turner for an interesting and valuable addition to the Year Book series. J. H. B.

SELECT BILLS IN EYRE, A.D. 1292-1333. Edited for the Selden Society by William Craddock Bolland. London: Bernard Quaritch. 1914. pp. lxiii, 174.

In the second volume of his *Eyre of Kent*, 6 & 7 Edward II, Mr. Bolland discussed the nature of Bills in Eyre. The subject is one not merely of historic interest, but of present value as shedding light upon the problem of simplicity and informality in pleading. In this new volume Mr. Bolland returns to the subject, and prints a most excellent collection of bills, accompanied by the extract from the Eyre roll, and followed by a valuable glossary.

The bills were concerned with abuses of all sorts: non-payment of debts, breaches of contract, trespass, imprisonments, abductions, conspiracies, and miscellaneous wrongs. Pecuniary damages are sought, but injunctions also are requested. In fact, the Eyre seems to have constituted an embryonic court of equity. "The Justices in Eyre were more amply clothed with the King's *persona* than ever was a Chief Justice sitting in King's Bench. All that the King could do to right wrong his Justices in Eyre could do" (p. xvi.) The editor concludes, therefore, that the Bills in Eyre were prayers addressed to the extra-legal discretion of the Justices, who could thus remedy abuses that could not be reached by the common law. The introduction contains an interesting summary of the proceedings. For students of the social and economic history of the times, these bills are valuable authority.

In his introduction Mr. Bolland also considers the derivation of the word "bill," which he believes to be a shortened form of *libellus*, a document; and discourses briefly on the delivery of Bills in Eyre, of failure to prosecute, of the indorsement on the bills, and of the French of the bills.

The volume confirms the opinion that Mr. Bolland is a worthy successor of Maitland in the study of medieval legal documents. J. H. B.